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Written Testimony For House Bill 133 by:  
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Dear Chairman and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

We strongly support HB 133 by Representative Toni Rose. This legislation would apply the leading recommendation of the Texas' Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and is the right thing to do for Texas families. This bill would help pregnant Texans by extending Medicaid eligibility by 12 months after pregnancy. This policy is an important step towards addressing the maternal mortality rate in the state of Texas and is only the tip of the iceberg.

According to the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and the Department of State Health Services' 2020 Biennial Report, nearly 40% of maternal death cases reviewed were identified as pregnancy-related. This is why many organizations have called for this expansion, including the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, and if enacted, **the federal government would provide a 100% fiscal match.**

Texas has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the nation. Black Texans are 2 to 3 times more likely to die while pregnant or within a year after pregnancy than their white counterparts. We must expand Medicaid to treat the most common health conditions, cardiovascular issues and mental health issues so that Texans can live and take care of their children. Access to postpartum health care is a racial justice issue and this policy would save lives.

We believe Texas must reduce premature births, low birth weight babies, pregnancy complications, the rates of infant mortality, postpartum depression, and maternal deaths. This is a policy that would simply increase people's access to living the sort of future we envision for all Texans. A Texas where people have their needs met and are able to have the family they want to have. We strongly support this bill and hope that you will do what is right for Texas.